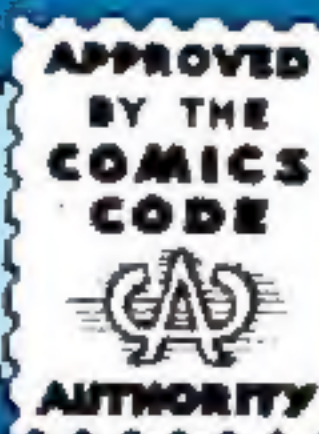


MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUPTM



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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU



SHANG-CHI--
TRAPPED ON AN
ISLAND WHERE
HARMLESS TOYS
BECOME
DEADLY
WEAPONS!



CAPTIVE *IN A*
MADMAN'S CROWN!

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my **father** did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: That my name means "The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit," that my body could be forged into a living weapon. Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu** the most insidiously evil man on earth...and that to **honor** him would bring nothing but **dishonor** to the spirit of my **name**.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU!™

CYCLONE at the CENTER of a MADMAN'S CROWN!

DOUG
MOENCH
WRITER

PAUL
GULACY
ARTIST

DAN ADKINS, INKER
JOHN COSTANZA, LETTERER
JANICE COHEN, COLORIST

MARV WOLFMAN
EDITOR

FEATURING SUPPORT-
ING CHARACTERS
CREATED BY
SAX ROHMER

"ALL THOUGHTS ARE
MADNESS TO HE WHO
IS NOT THE **THINKER**."

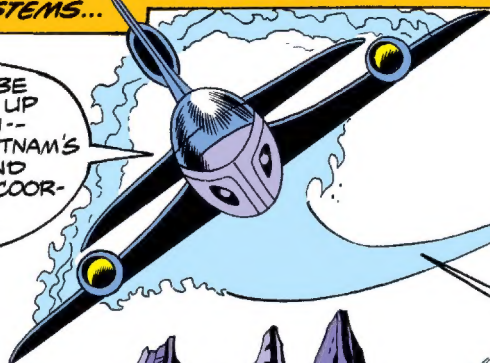
"THUS, FOR ONE
MAN TO ENTER
THE REALM OF
ANOTHER MAN'S
MIND IS TO
INVITE **MAD-**
NESS TO PLAY
HOST TO A
GUEST OF
MADNESS."

"ALL THOUGHTS,
THEN, BECOME
MADNESS IN THE
MIXTURE... EVEN
TO THE THINKERS
THEMSELVES."

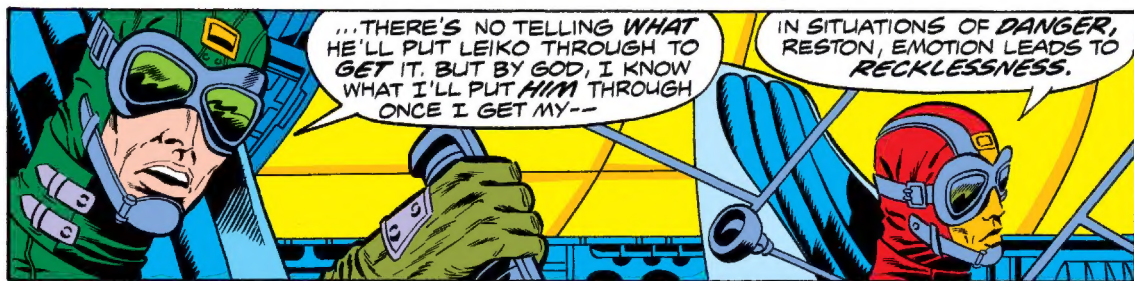


"THE EAST CHINA SEA: CLIVE RESTON PILOTS THE AIRBORNE CRAFT WITH PREOCCUPIED *SKILL*, MAINTAINING AN ALTITUDE WELL *BELOW* THE RANGE OF THE COMMUNIST CHINESE RADAR SYSTEMS..."

THAT MUST BE THE ISLAND UP *AHEAD*, CHI-- MATCHES PUTNAM'S LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES *PRECISELY*.

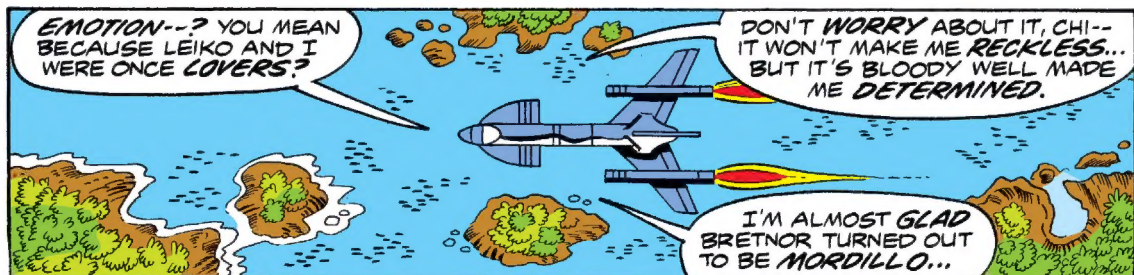


BETTER BRACE OURSELVES TO EXPECT *ANYTHING* FROM MORDILLO--AND *MORE*. HE MAY BE COMPLETELY *MAD*, BUT HE'S *CUNNINGLY* MAD, AND NOW THAT HE'S AFTER THE *PROJECT: ULTRA-VIOLET* DATA...



...THERE'S NO TELLING *WHAT* HE'LL PUT LEIKO THROUGH TO *GET* IT. BUT BY GOD, I KNOW WHAT I'LL PUT *HIM* THROUGH ONCE I GET MY--

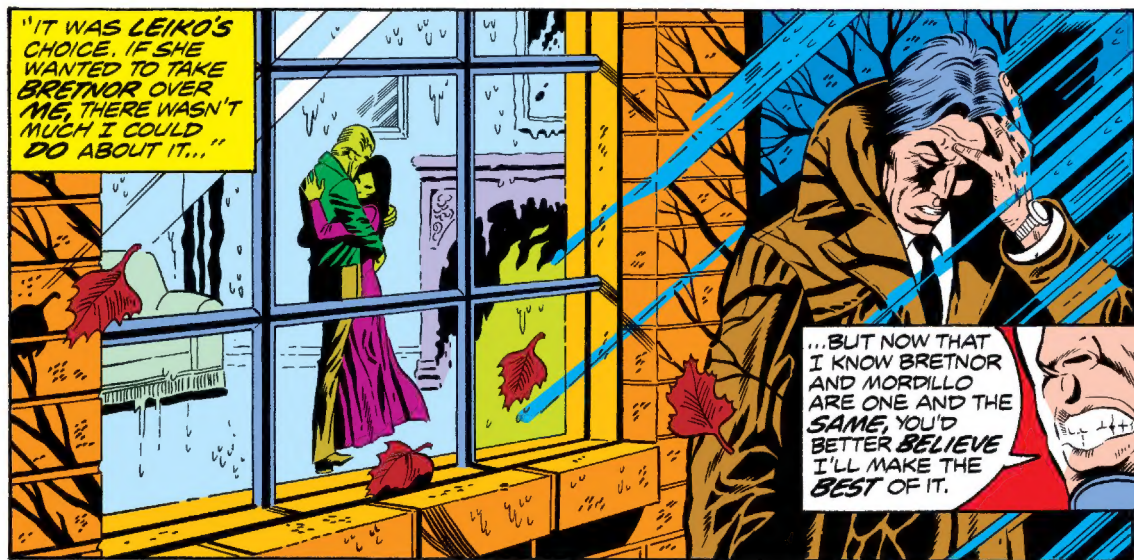
IN SITUATIONS OF *DANGER*, RESTON, EMOTION LEADS TO *RECKLESSNESS*.



EMOTION--? YOU MEAN BECAUSE LEIKO AND I WERE ONCE *COVERS*?

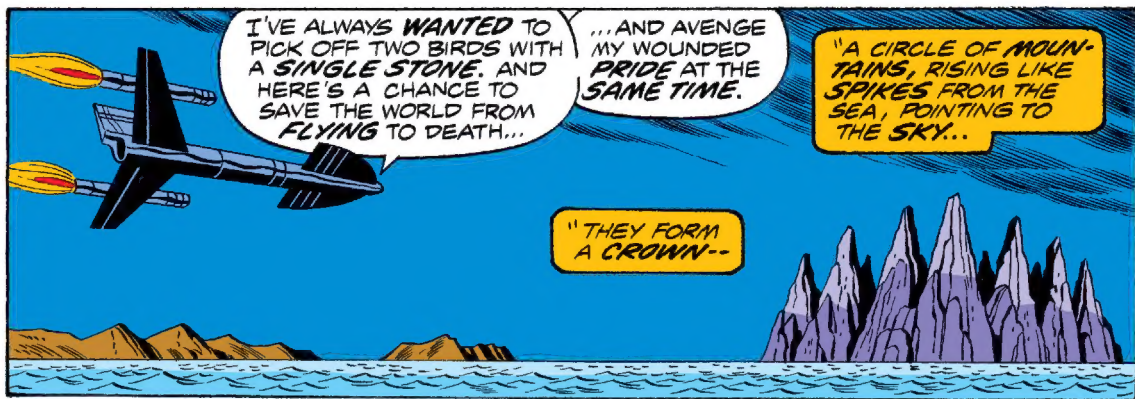
DON'T *WORRY* ABOUT IT, CHI-- IT WON'T MAKE ME *RECKLESS*... BUT IT'S *BLOODY* WELL MADE ME *DETERMINED*.

I'M ALMOST *GLAD* BRETNOR TURNED OUT TO BE *MORDILLO*...



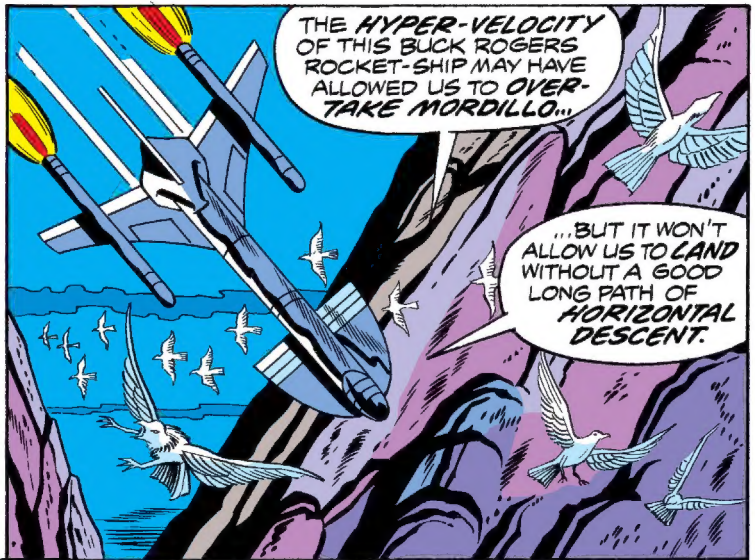
"IT WAS *LEIKO'S* CHOICE. IF SHE WANTED TO TAKE *BRETNOR* OVER *ME*, THERE WASN'T MUCH I COULD DO ABOUT IT..."

...BUT NOW THAT I KNOW BRETNOR AND MORDILLO ARE ONE AND THE *SAME*, YOU'D BETTER *BELIEVE* I'LL MAKE THE *BEST* OF IT.



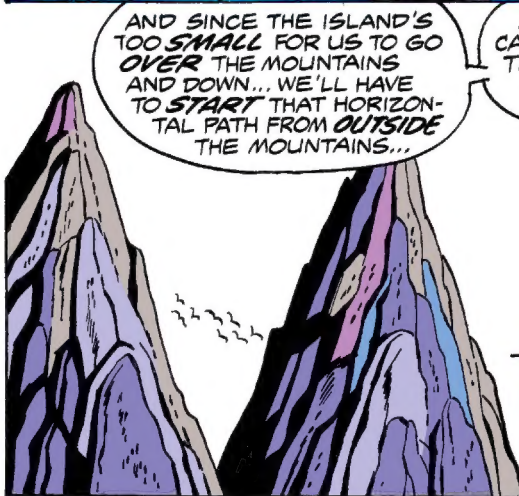


HANG ON, CHI-- IT'S TIME TO DROP INTO A DIVE AND **FIND OUT**.

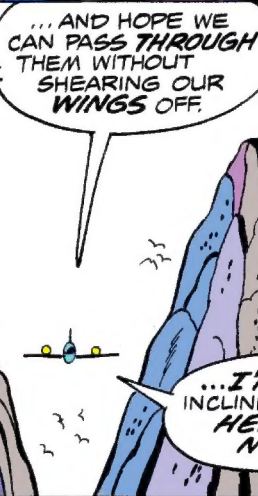


THE **HYPER-VELOCITY** OF THIS BUCK ROGERS ROCKET-SHIP MAY HAVE ALLOWED US TO **OVER-TAKE MORDILLO**...

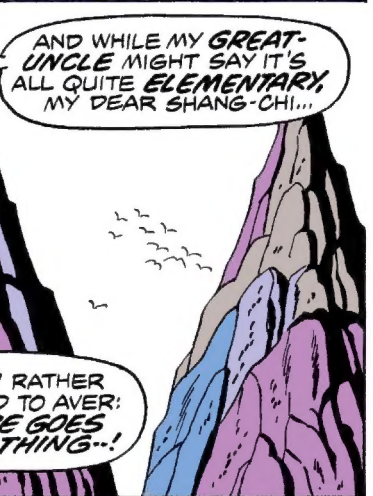
...BUT IT WON'T ALLOW US TO **LAND** WITHOUT A GOOD LONG PATH OF **HORIZONTAL DESCENT**.



AND SINCE THE ISLAND'S TOO **SMALL** FOR US TO GO **OVER** THE MOUNTAINS AND DOWN... WE'LL HAVE TO **START** THAT **HORIZONTAL** PATH FROM **OUTSIDE** THE MOUNTAINS...



... AND HOPE WE CAN **PASS THROUGH** THEM WITHOUT **SHEARING** OUR **WINGS** OFF.



AND WHILE MY **GREAT-UNCLE** MIGHT SAY IT'S ALL QUITE **ELEMENTARY**, MY DEAR SHANG-CHI...

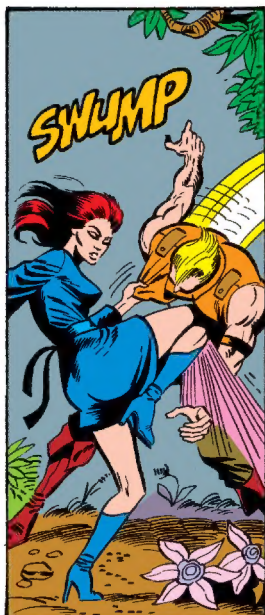
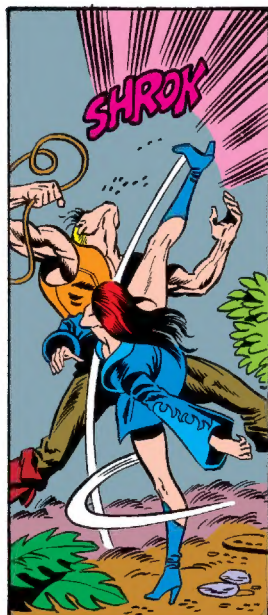
...I'M RATHER INCLINED TO AVER: **HERE GOES NOTHING**...

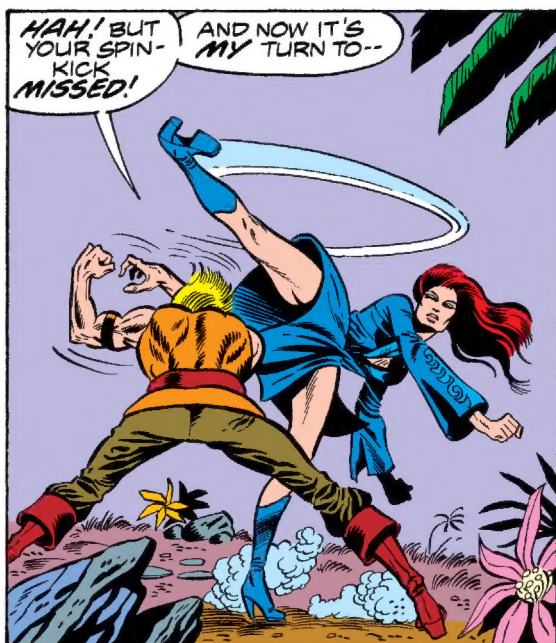


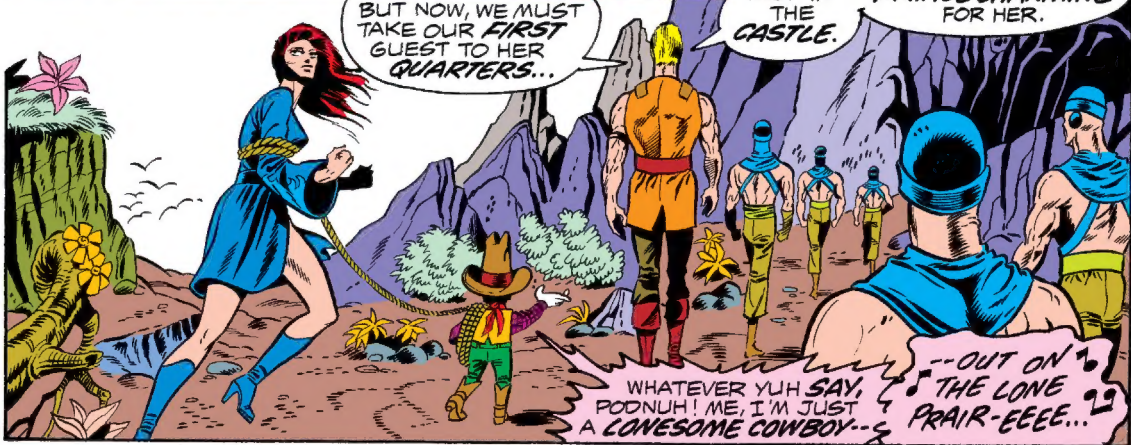
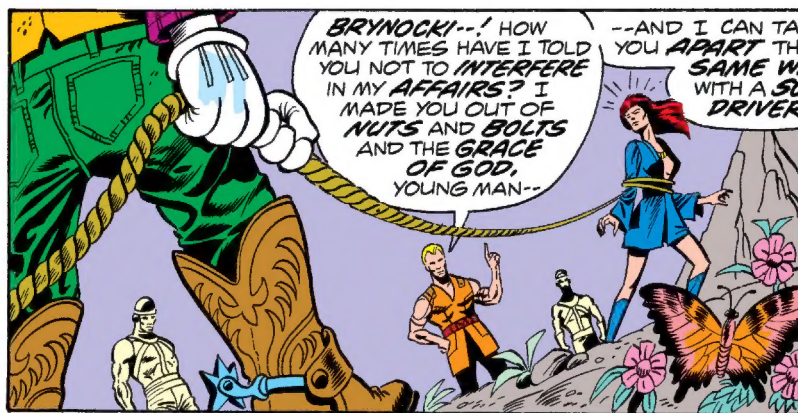
NOW THEN, LITTLE **LEIKO**... ASIDE FROM REFUSING TO COOPERATE BY **TELLING** ME WHAT I WISH TO **KNOW**, YOU'VE BEHAVED YOURSELF QUITE **WELL** DURING THE FLIGHT TO MY **ISLAND**...

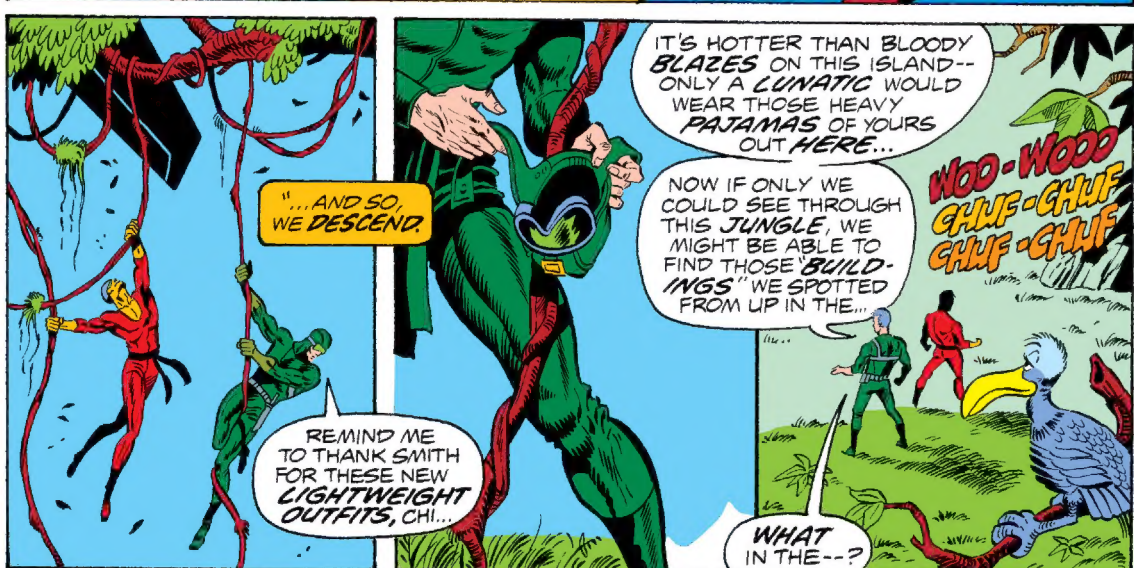
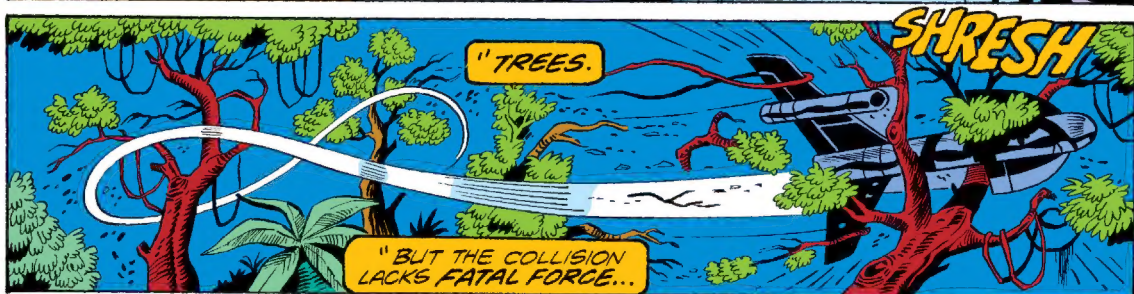
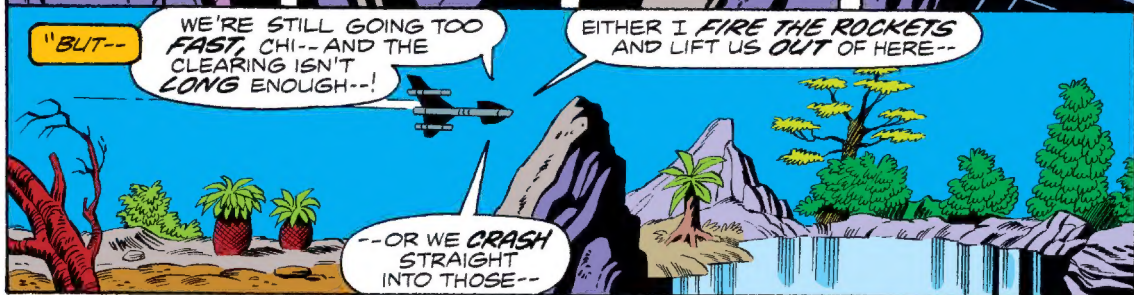
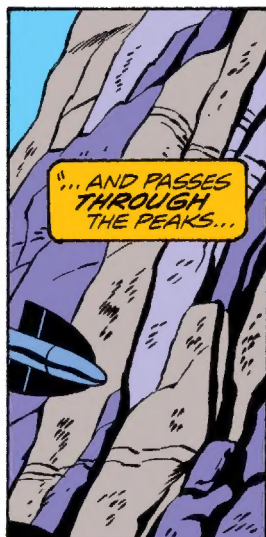
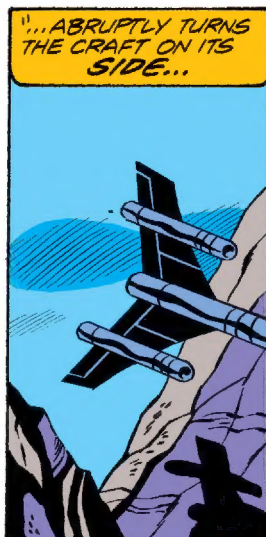
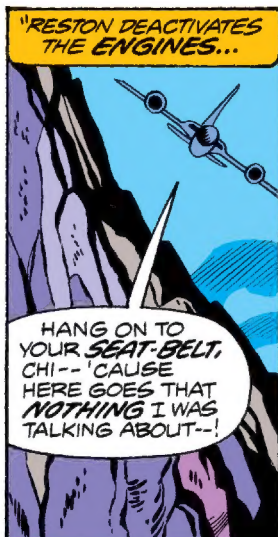
SO I'M GOING TO **REWARD** YOU BY UNTYING YOUR **HANDS** FOR OUR LITTLE WALK TO THE **CASTLE**.

BUT I **WARN** YOU, LITTLE **LEIKO**--IF YOU DO NOT **CONTINUE** TO BE A **GOOD GIRL**...







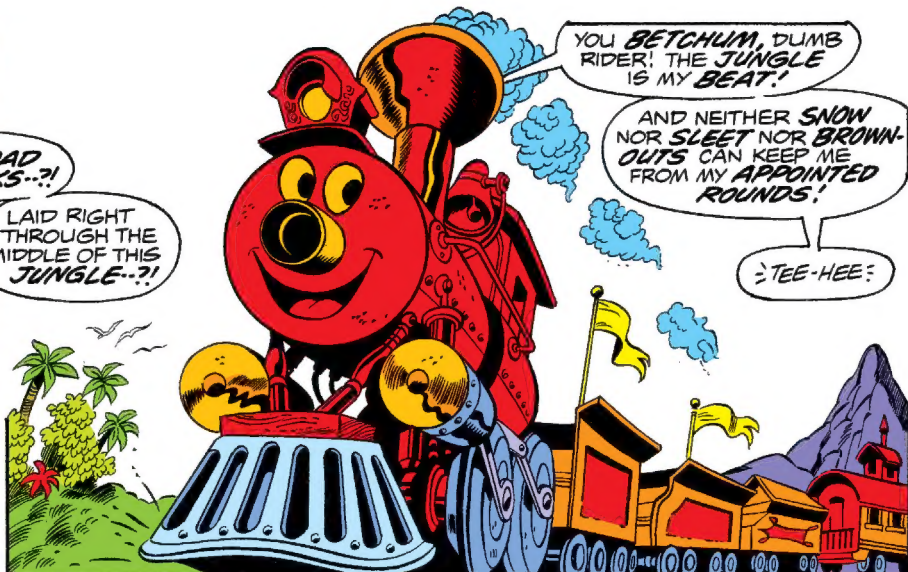




UHN!
NOW
WHAT?

RAILROAD
TRACKS--?!

LAI'D RIGHT
THROUGH THE
MIDDLE OF THIS
JUNGLE--?!



YOU **BETCHUM**, DUMB
RIDER! THE **JUNGLE**
IS MY **BEAT**!

AND NEITHER **SNOW**
NOR **SLEET** NOR **BROWN-
OUTS** CAN KEEP ME
FROM MY **APPOINTED**
ROUNDS!

TEE-HEE!



THAT **SETTLES** IT, CHI--MORDILLO'S
GONE **COMPLETELY** OFF THE
DEEP END... A **GOONY-FACED**
PUFFERBELLY THAT **TALKS**...!

SAY, THAT LOOKS
LIKE SOME SORT OF
CALLING CARD
PROPPED UP ON THE
SEAT OF THE **FIRST**
CAR...



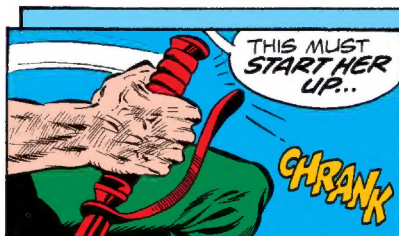
NO...IT'S AN
INVITATION...



THAT'S **RIGHT**, CHUMS!
HOP ABOARD FOR THE
BIG BASH!

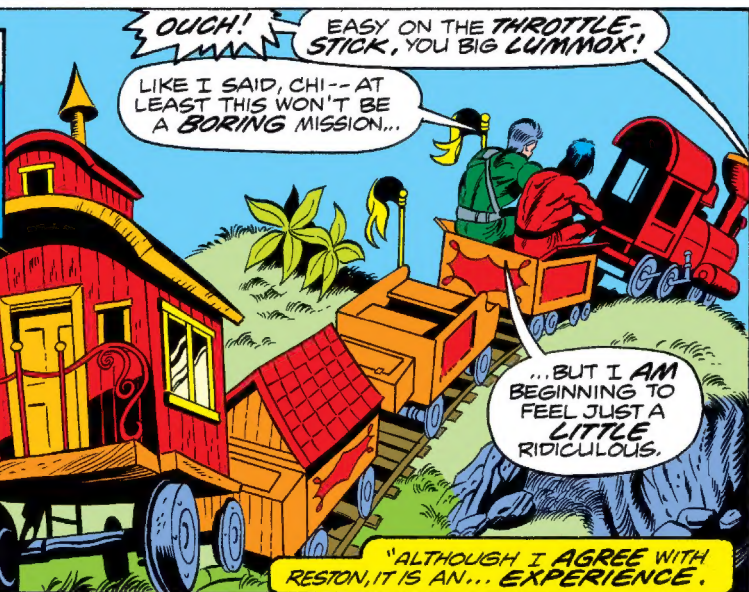
MIGHT AS WELL,
CHI...

AT LEAST THE TRAIN'LL
TAKE US TO **MORDILLO**.



THIS MUST
STARTER
UP...

CHANK



OUCH!
MAN

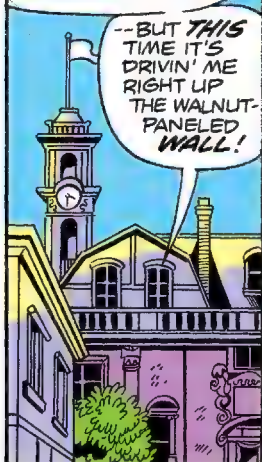
EASY ON THE **THROTTLE-
STICK**, YOU **BIG LUMMOX**!

LIKE I SAID, CHI-- AT
LEAST THIS WON'T BE
A **BORING** MISSION...

...BUT I AM
BEGINNING TO
FEEL JUST A
LITTLE
RIDICULOUS.

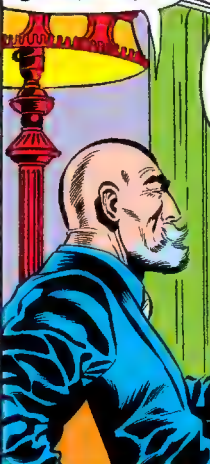
"ALTHOUGH I AGREE WITH
RESTON, IT IS AN... **EXPERIENCE**."

I NEVER *DID* LIKE COOLIN' MY HEELS HERE IN **SCOTLAND YARD**, SIR DENIS--



--BUT *THIS* TIME IT'S DRIVIN' ME RIGHT UP THE WALNUT-PANELED WALL!

AND WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST AS AN **ALTERNATIVE**, BLACK JACK?



I'M SUGGESTIN' YOU MADE A *MISTAKE*, SIR DENIS-- RIGHT FROM THE START. THE CHINAMAN I CAN UNDERSTAND, BUT WHY YOU SENT THE HOTHEAD **RESTON** INSTEAD OF *ME*...!

WELL, IT JUST DON'T MAKE SENSE, SIR. *YOU'RE* THE ONE WHO CAME UP WITH THE RULE PROHIBITIN' THE USE OF AN AGENT WITH **PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT** IN A CASE--!



SEEMS TO *ME* YOU SHOULD'VE STOPPED RESTON WAY BACK WHEN HE *FIRST* STARTED FOOLIN' AROUND WITH LEIKO...



MAYBE YOU DIDN'T BECAUSE HIS **FATHER** WAS ALWAYS MESSIN' WITH THE LADIES AND MANAGED TO DO A GOOD JOB *ANYWAY*... BUT TO LET RESTON GO AFTER THE CHICK WHO DRIVES HIM **BLIND** WITH PUPPY-LOVE--!



THAT'S ENOUGH, BLACK JACK. I *WON'T* HAVE MY DECISIONS QUESTIONED OR CRITICIZED --NOT EVEN BY YOU.

BESIDES, MR. TARR, THERE'S PLENTY FOR US TO DO RIGHT HERE IN **LONDON**. WE STILL CAN'T BE SURE THAT MORDILLO IS THE ONLY ONE WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE **SOLAR-CHUTE**...



SAYS YOU PETRIE!

BUT *I* SAY WE COULD SCROUNGE AROUND LONDON UNTIL WE'RE **BLUE** IN THE FACES--AND IT WOULDN'T CHANGE A *THING*!



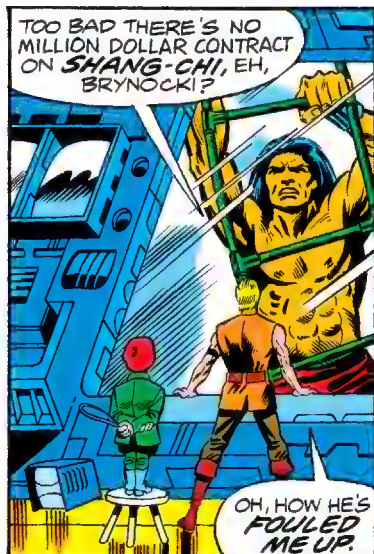
HE SEEMS MORE UPSET THAN *USUAL*, NAYLAND...

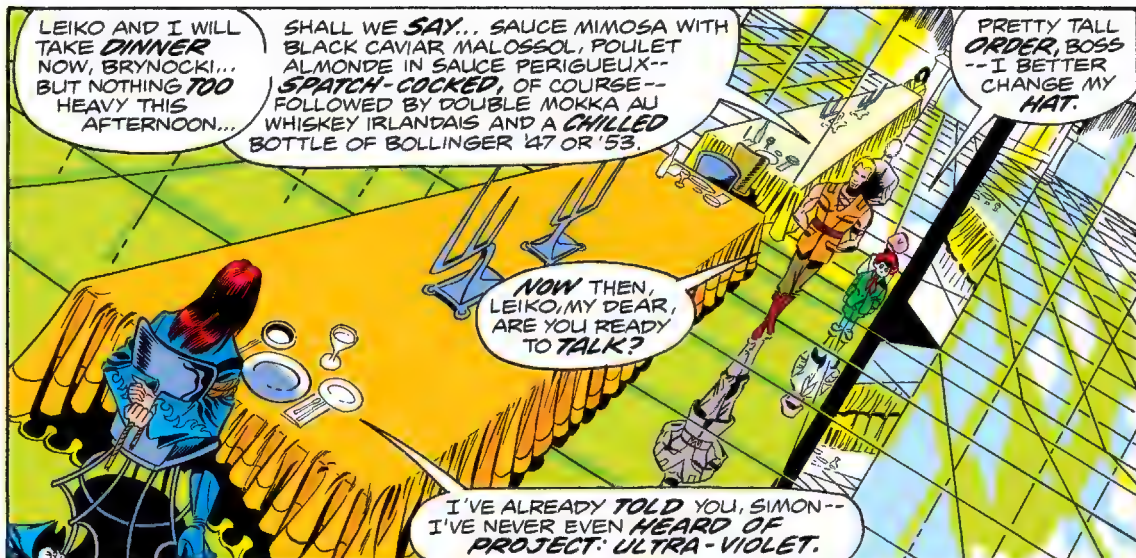


YES...HE IS *INDEED*. I JUST HOPE HE DOES NOTHING **FOOLISH**, PETRIE...

THE ACTION'S OUT ON **MORDILLO'S ISLAND**--AND *THAT'S* WHERE WE SHOULD *BE*!

...AND REMEMBERS THAT THERE IS FAR MORE AT **STAKE** IN THIS MATTER THAN THE MERE LIVES OF *THREE* AGENTS.





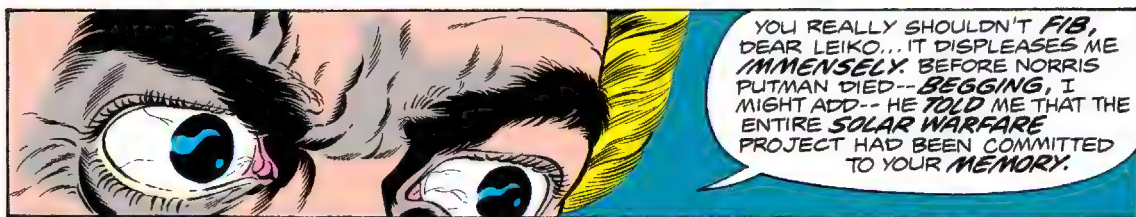
LEIKO AND I WILL TAKE **DINNER** NOW, BRYNOCKI... BUT NOTHING **TOO** HEAVY THIS AFTERNOON...

SHALL WE **SAY...** SAUCE MIMOSA WITH BLACK CAVIAR MALOSSOL, POULET ALMONDE IN SAUCE PERIGUEUX-- **SPATCH- COCKED**, OF COURSE-- FOLLOWED BY DOUBLE MOKKA AU WHISKEY IRLANDAIS AND A **CHILLED** BOTTLE OF BOLLINGER 47 OR '53.

PRETTY TALL **ORDER, BOSS**-- I BETTER CHANGE MY **HAT**.

NOW THEN, LEIKO, MY DEAR, ARE YOU READY TO **TALK**?

I'VE ALREADY **TOLD** YOU, SIMON-- I'VE NEVER EVEN **HEARD** OF **PROJECT: ULTRA- VIOLET**.



YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T **FIB**, DEAR LEIKO... IT DISPLEASES ME **IMMENSELY**. BEFORE NORRIS PUTMAN DIED--**BEGGING**, I MIGHT ADD-- HE **TOLD** ME THAT THE ENTIRE **SOLAR WARFARE** PROJECT HAD BEEN COMMITTED TO YOUR **MEMORY**.



THEN HE **LIED** TO YOU, SIMON-- HE WAS TRYING TO **BARGAIN** FOR HIS **LIFE**...!

I **SWEAR** TO YOU-- I KNOW **NOTHING** ABOUT **SOLAR WARFARE**--! I'VE **NEVER** KNOWN ANYTHING ABOUT IT!



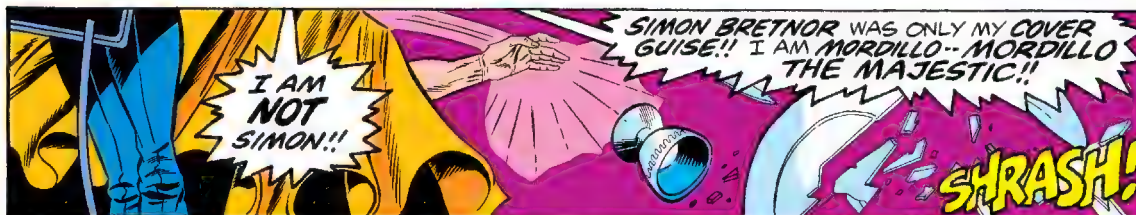
MORE **LIES**, DEAR LEIKO-- MORE LIES TO **CONFUSE** ME! BUT I **WON'T BE CONFUSED**! I **WATCHED** YOU, LEIKO-- I WATCHED YOU FOR **SIX WEEKS**--!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU **DID** IN THOSE SIX WEEKS--? YOU WENT TO PUTMAN'S **LAB** AT **SCOTLAND YARD**-- AND YOU UNDERWENT AN INTENSIVE PROGRAM OF **MEMORY ASSIMILA- TION**!



NO--! NO--IT'S NOT **TRUE**! SIMON, HOW CAN YOU **DO** THIS TO ME--?!

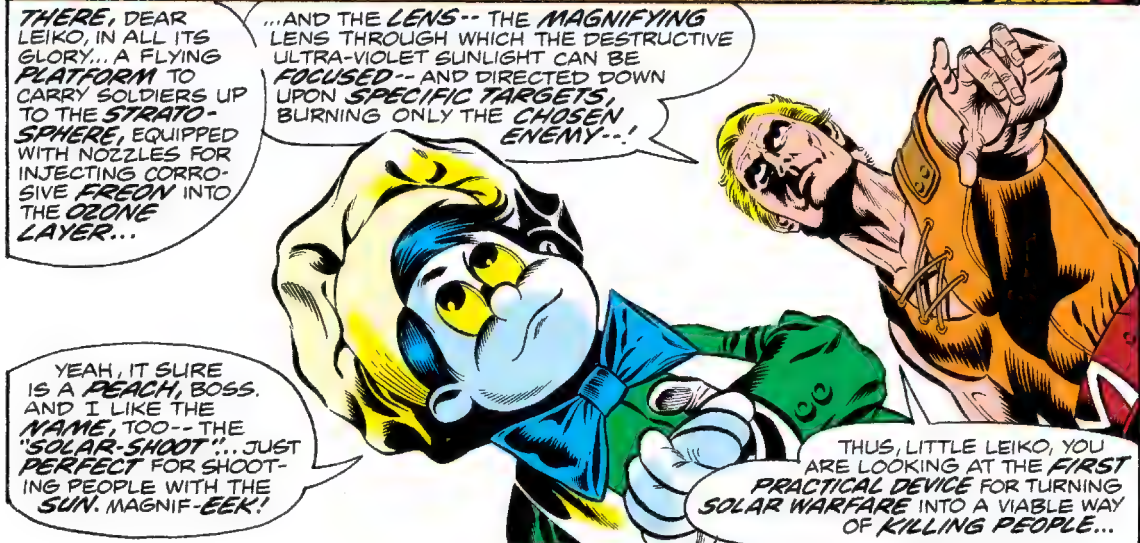
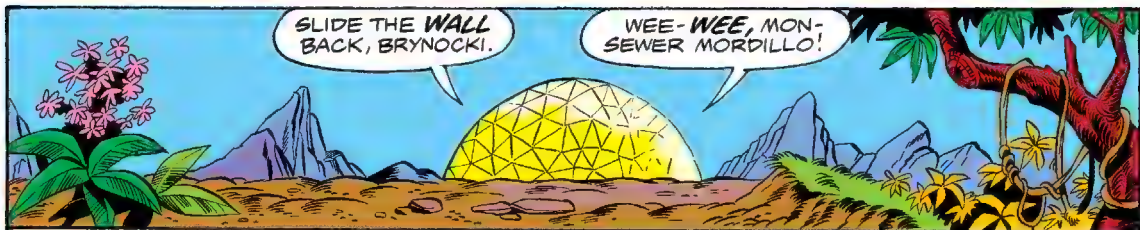
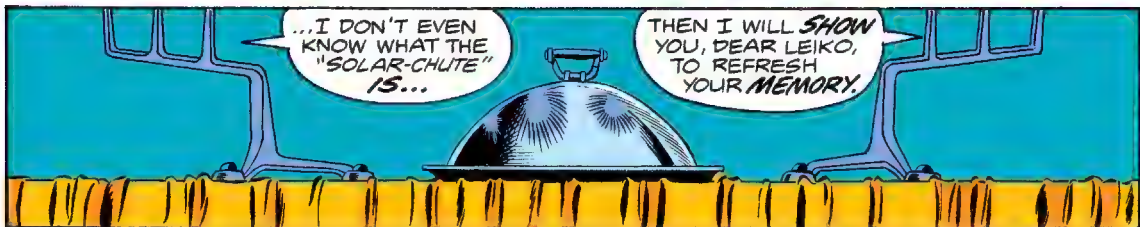
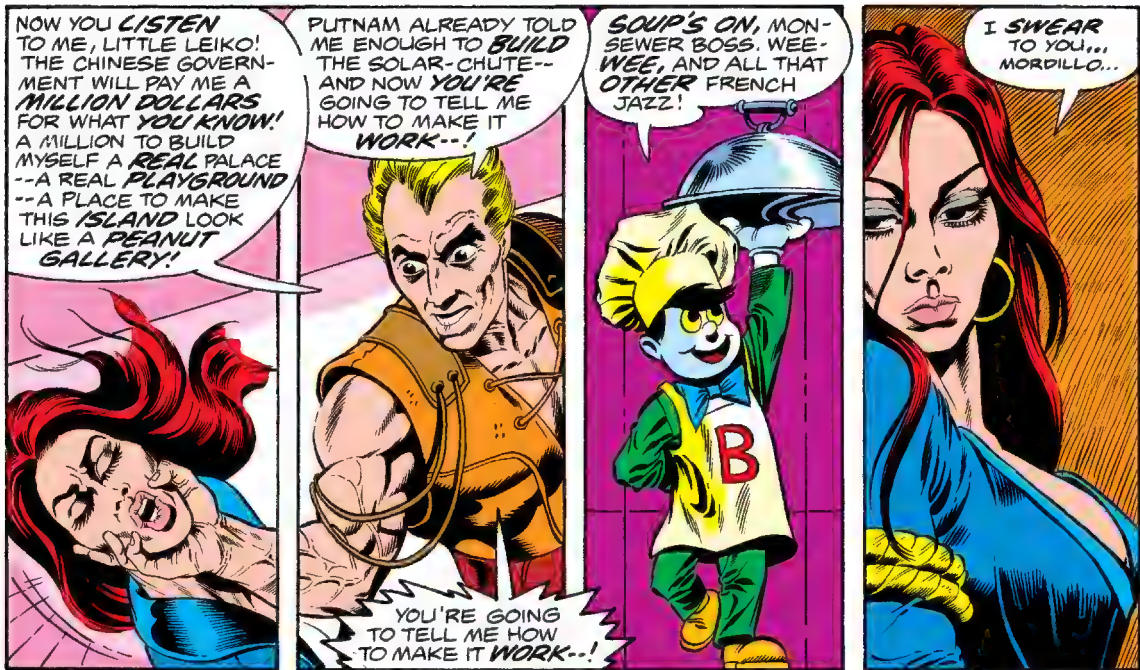
WE WERE IN **LOVE**-- WE **TRUSTED** EACH OTHER--! WE WERE IN **LOVE**, SIMON!!

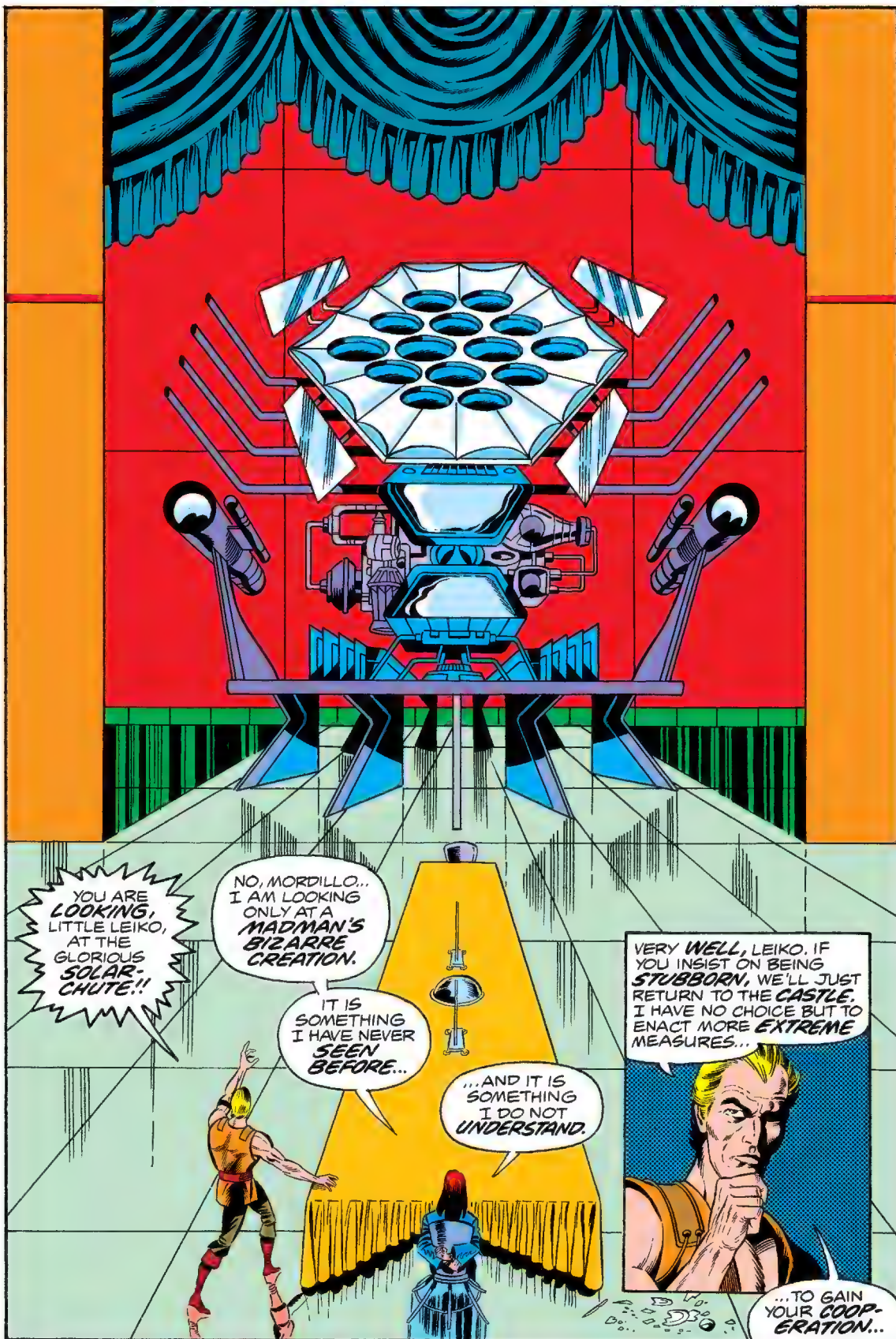


I AM **NOT** SIMON!!

SIMON BRETNOR WAS ONLY MY **COVER** L GUISE!! I AM **MORDILLO**-- **MORDILLO** THE **MAJESTIC**!!

SHRASH!





YOU ARE
LOOKING,
LITTLE LEIKO,
AT THE
GLORIOUS
SOLAR-
CHUTE!!

NO, MORDILLO...
I AM LOOKING
ONLY AT A
MADMAN'S
BIZARRE
CREATION.

IT IS
SOMETHING
I HAVE NEVER
SEEN
BEFORE...

...AND IT IS
SOMETHING
I DO NOT
UNDERSTAND.

VERY WELL, LEIKO. IF
YOU INSIST ON BEING
STUBBORN, WE'LL JUST
RETURN TO THE CASTLE.
I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO
ENACT MORE EXTREME
MEASURES...

...TO GAIN
YOUR COOP-
ERATION...



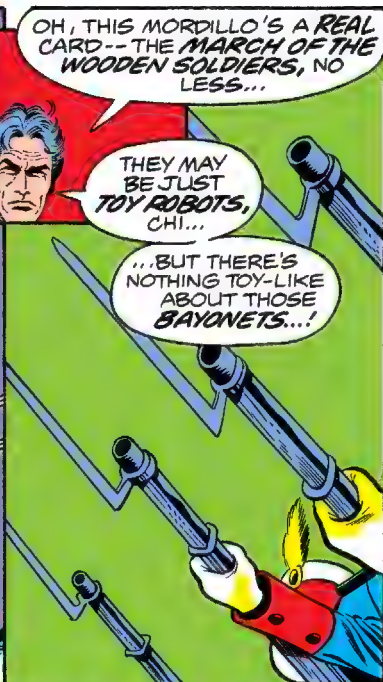
"WE REACH A **BOOT**... AS THE TRAIN **SPEAKS**..."

ALL FREELoadERS OUT!

TERRIFIC, I HOPE THERE'S NOTHING MORE THAN AN OLD WOMAN IN THERE, CHI...



"THE TOE... OPENS..."



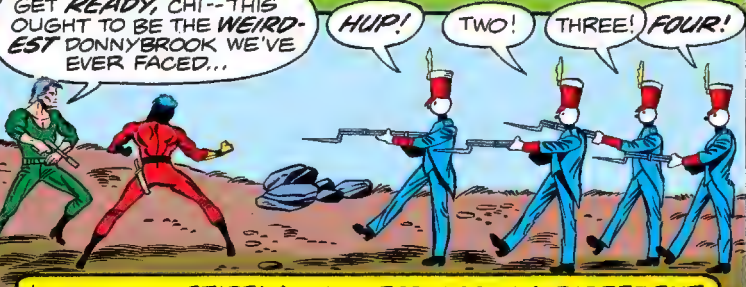
OH, THIS MORDILLO'S A REAL CARD-- THE MARCH OF THE WOODEN SOLDIERS, NO LESS...

THEY MAY BE JUST TOY ROBOTS, CHI...

...BUT THERE'S NOTHING TOY-LIKE ABOUT THOSE BAYONETS...



GET READY, CHI-- THIS OUGHT TO BE THE WEIRDEST DONNYBROOK WE'VE EVER FACED...



HUP!

TWO!

THREE!

FOUR!



"BUT NOW, WE ARE FORCED INTO DESTRUCTION."



BACK OFF, YOU BLASTED...



"THE DESTRUCTION..."

"--ENDS."



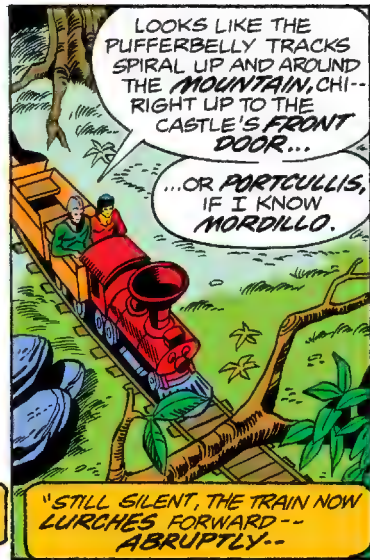
ALL RIGHT, SO YOU **BEAT** THE WOODEN SOLDIERS. BIG DEAL. WE ALL MARCH TO A DIFFERENT DRUM, AND SINCE YOU TWO SEEM BENT ON MARCHING RIGHT UP TO **LORD MORDILLO**, I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO **MOVE ON**.

ALL ABOARD, WATCH YOUR STEP, AND **ET CETERA**.

"THE TRAIN SPEAKS ENDLESSLY AS IT CARRIES US FORWARD, UNTIL WE BREAK INTO A **CLEARING...**"



"...AND IT FALLS SILENT BEFORE THE... **CASTLE**."



LOOKS LIKE THE PUFFERBELLY TRACKS SPIRAL UP AND AROUND THE **MOUNTAIN**, CHI-- RIGHT UP TO THE CASTLE'S **FRONT DOOR...**

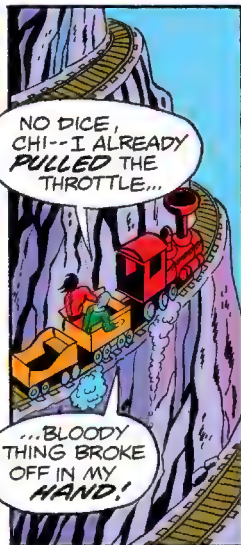
"...OR **PORTCULLIS**, IF I KNOW **MORDILLO**."

"STILL SILENT, THE TRAIN NOW **LURCHES FORWARD-- ABRUPTLY--**"



"--AND INTO **GREAT SPEED**."

RESTON-- PULL THE **THROTTLE** BEFORE IT MOVES TOO FAST TO MAKE THE **CURVES**.



NO DICE, CHI--I ALREADY **PULLED** THE **THROTTLE**...

"...BLOODY THING BROKE OFF IN MY **HAND!**"



"THE TRAIN **CAUGHS**."

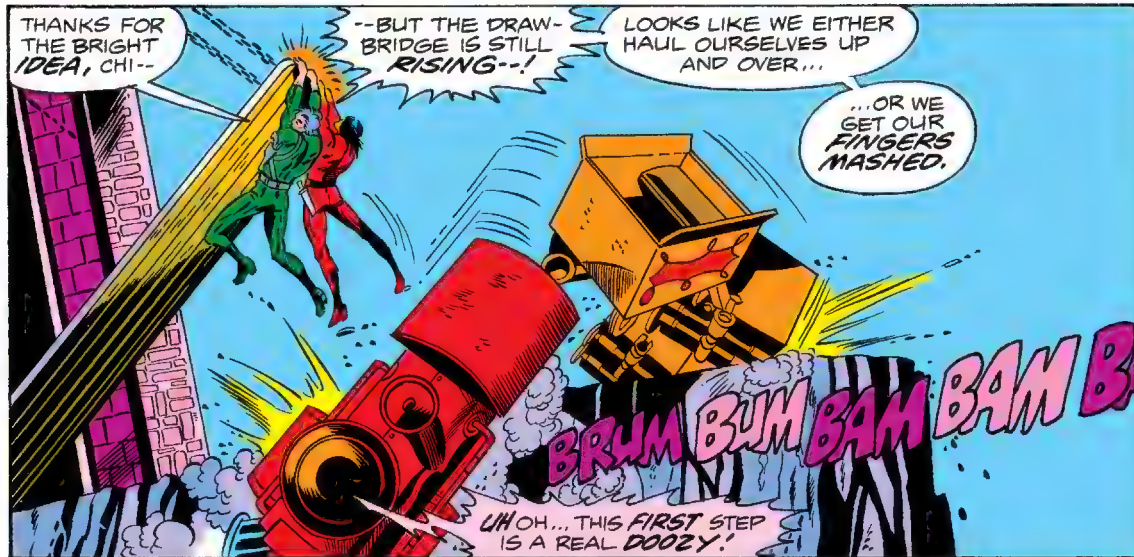
HO, HO, HO! **HEE, HEE, HEE!**



HE'S PULLING THE **DRAWBRIDGE UP--** WHICH MEANS THE **TRACKS END**, CHI! WE'VE **HAD IT--!**

NOT IF WE **JUMP**, **RESTON...**

"...AND DO SO **QUICKLY**."



THANKS FOR THE BRIGHT **IDEA**, CHI--

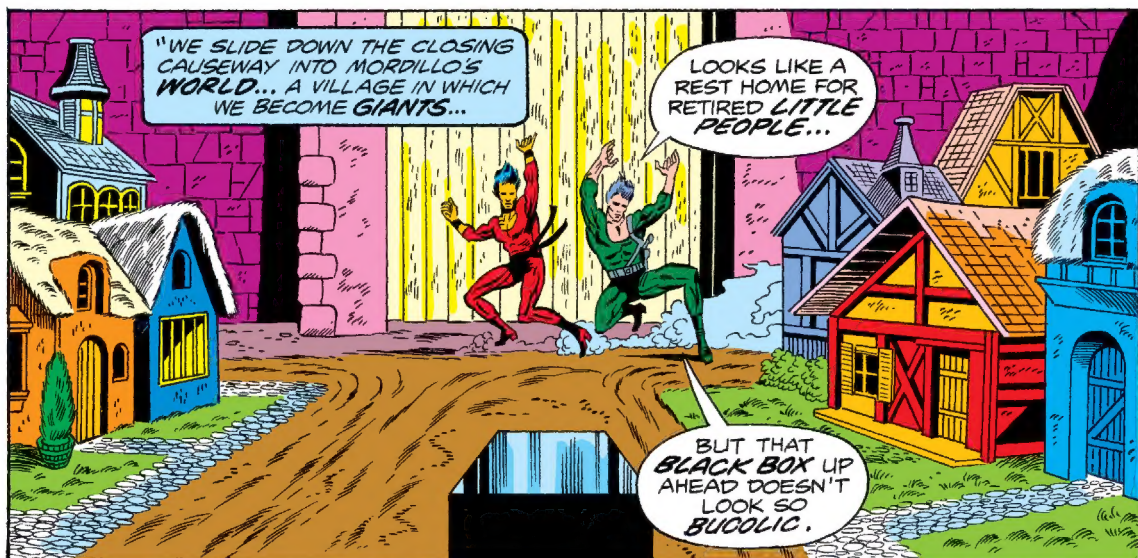
--BUT THE **DRAWBRIDGE** IS STILL **RISEING--!**

LOOKS LIKE WE EITHER **HAUL OURSELVES UP** AND OVER...

"...OR WE GET OUR **FINGERS MASHED**."

BRUM BUM BAM BAM BAM

UH OH... THIS FIRST STEP IS A REAL **DOOZY!**



"WE SLIDE DOWN THE CLOSING CAUSEWAY INTO MORDILLO'S WORLD... A VILLAGE IN WHICH WE BECOME GIANTS..."

LOOKS LIKE A REST HOME FOR RETIRED LITTLE PEOPLE...

BUT THAT BLACK BOX UP AHEAD DOESN'T LOOK SO BUDDIC.



IN FACT, I'D HAVE TO SAY IT LOOKS DOWNRIGHT OMINOUS. THE WAY IT'S POSITIONED RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD HERE, I SUPPOSE IT'S SOME SORT OF GREETING...

A BOMB, I WONDER...?



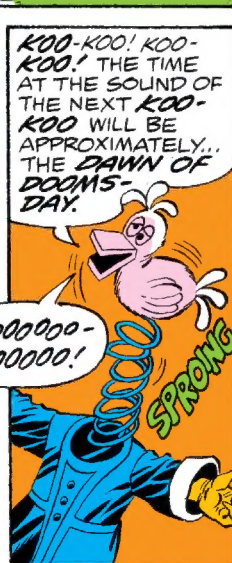
"NO."

GREETINGS, MY SON! IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE LAST WE--

SHUT UP, YOU BLASTED TINKER-TOY!

CHOOM

SPRING



KOO-KOO! KOO-KOO! THE TIME AT THE SOUND OF THE NEXT KOO-KOO WILL BE APPROXIMATELY... THE DAWN OF DOOMS-DAY.

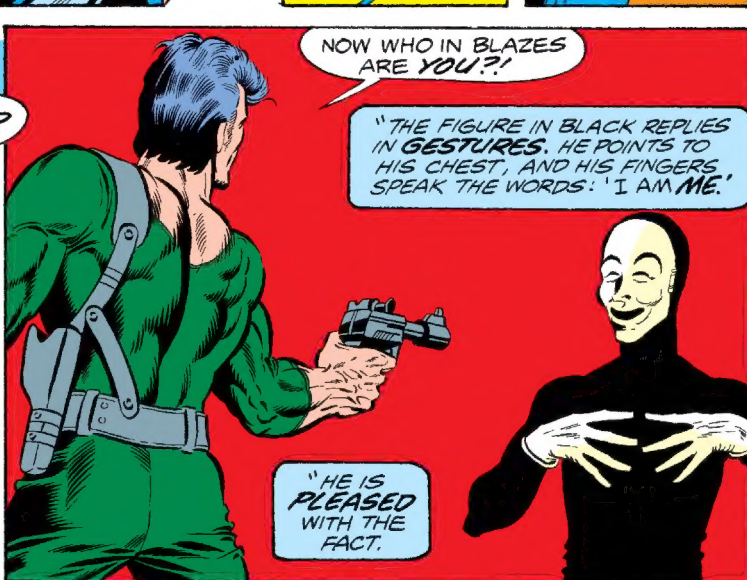
KOOOOO-KOOOOO!

SPRING



I'M GETTING JUST A LITTLE TIRED OF MORDILLO'S CRAZY ANTICS... AND WHEN I FINALLY GET HOLD OF HIM--

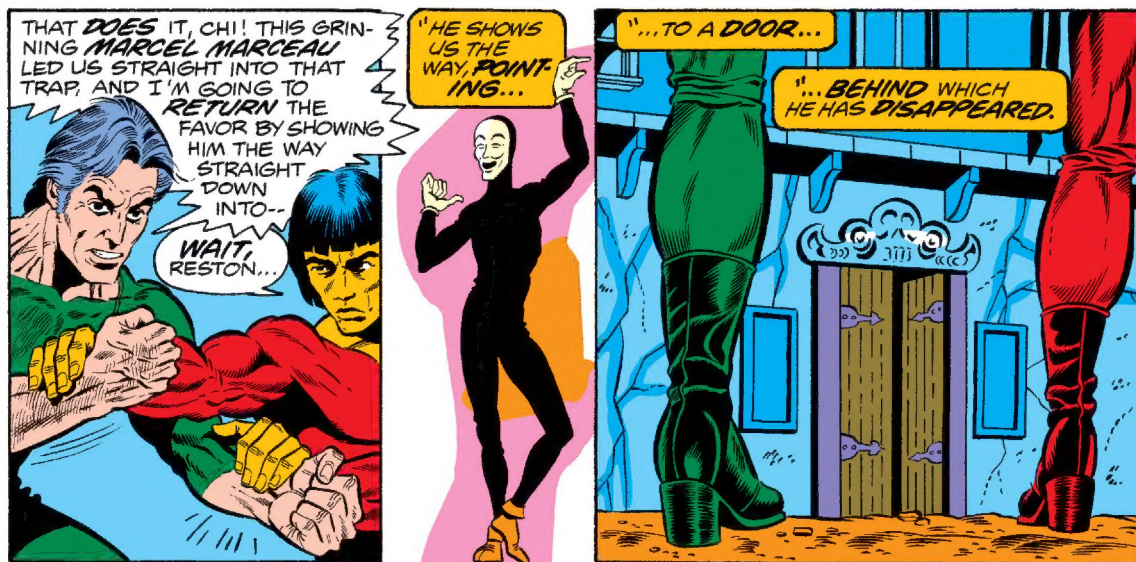
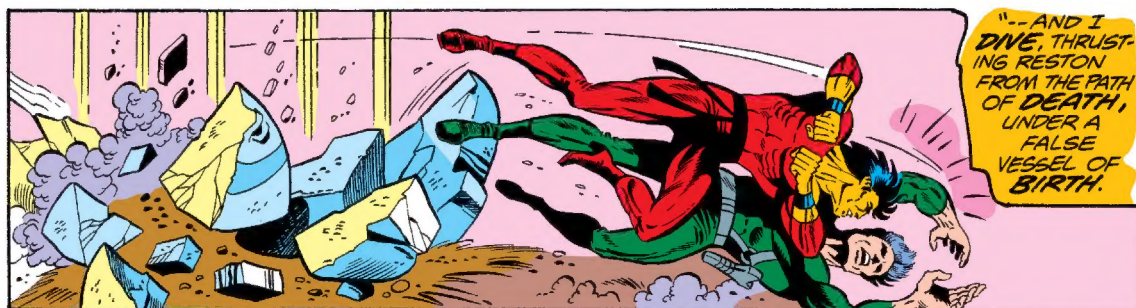
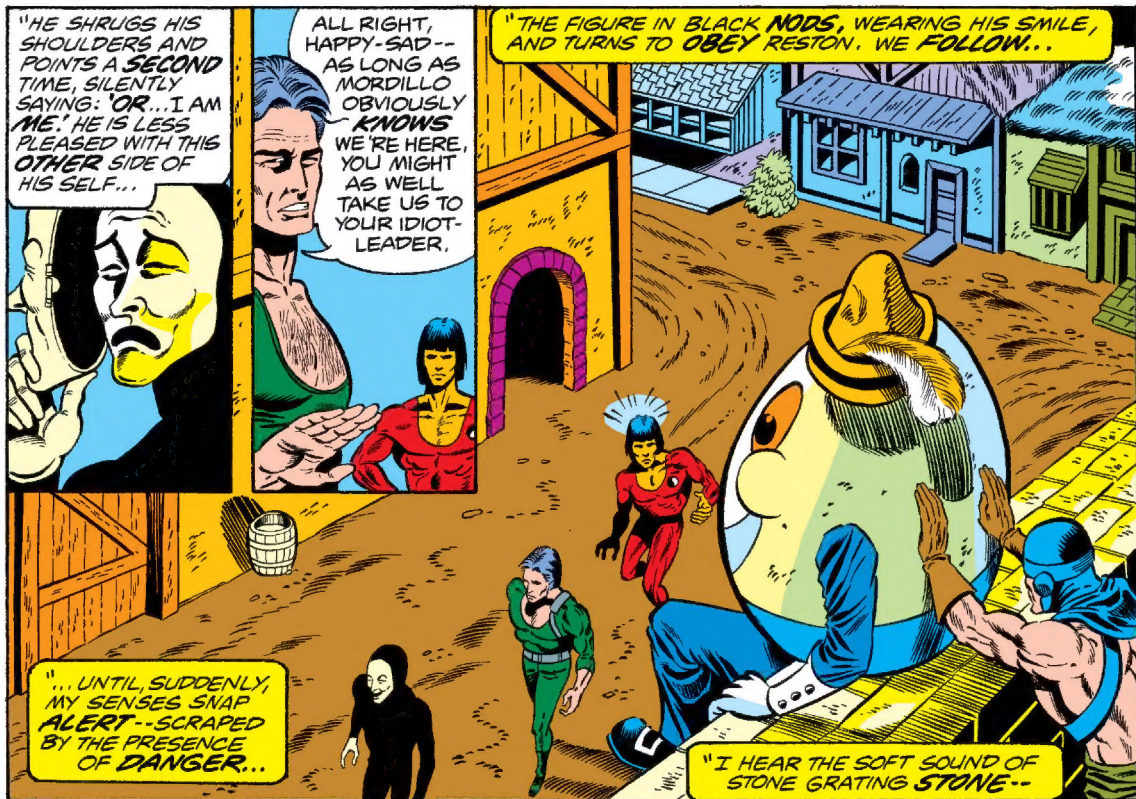
HUH-?



NOW WHO IN BLAZES ARE YOU?!

"THE FIGURE IN BLACK REPLIES IN GESTURES. HE POINTS TO HIS CHEST, AND HIS FINGERS SPEAK THE WORDS: 'I AM ME.'"

"HE IS PLEASED WITH THE FACT."

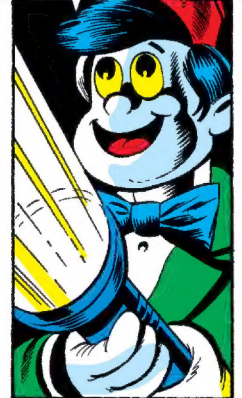




IT'S AN OLD **MOVIE PALACE**, CHI-- LIKE THE ONE WHEN I WAS JUST A KID IN **CHELSEA**...

WELCOME TO THE **BIJOU**, FOLKS! SHOWMAN MORDILLO IS EXTREMELY IMPRESSED WITH YOUR **PROGRESS** SO FAR --ESPECIALLY **YOURS**, MR. SHANG-CHI.

AND NOW, IF I MAY SHOW YOU TO YOUR **RESERVED SEATS**...?



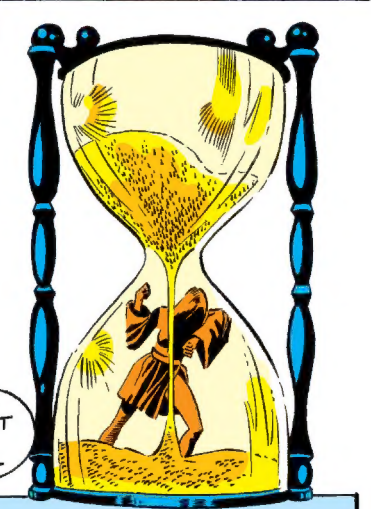
THE SHOW IS ABOUT TO **BEGIN**, FOLKS-- AND THE **MANAGEMENT GUARANTEES** IT'LL BE ONE YOU WON'T **FORGET**!

I'LL JUST **BET**, YOU **CLOCKWORK PIPSQUEAK**.

CHI, I DON'T **LIKE** THIS. SOMETHING TELLS ME WE SHOULD HAVE OUR **HEADS** EXAMINED FOR--



OH **NO!** THE **OLDEST TRICK** IN THE **BOOK**!



"WE CANNOT **MOVE**, AS THE **CURTAINS** MASKING THE **STAGE** NOW **OPEN**... AND REVEAL--

LEIKO!!

GOOD LORD, CHI-- WE'VE GOT TO **BREAK THIS BAR**--



--OR SHE'LL **DIE** RIGHT BEFORE OUR **EYES**!!

INDEED, MR. RESTON, YOU **SEE**, THE WHOLE IDEA IS TO FORCE LITTLE LEIKO INTO TELLING ME WHAT I WISH TO KNOW BEFORE THE **SAND** REACHES HER **MOUTH**... AT WHICH TIME SHE WILL BE UNABLE TO TELL **ANYONE** ANYTHING.

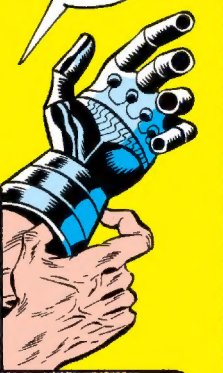


YOU'RE **CRAZY**, MORDILLO! SHE **CAN'T** TELL YOU-- SHE'S BEEN **HYPNOTIZED** TO **FORGET** SHE KNOWS! ONLY A **CODE-WORD** WILL MAKE HER **REMEMBER**-- AND YOU'VE **KILLED** THE ONLY MAN WHO **KNEW** THAT **CODE-WORD**!!



A **VALIANT EFFORT**, MY DEAR EX-RIVAL-- BUT OF COURSE, AN **ABSDURD LIE**.

AND NOW, FOR OUR **NEXT ACT**--



"HE PULLS A **METAL GLOVE** OVER HIS HAND..."

"...AND PRESSES A **BUTTON** IN ITS **PALM**. **FLAMES** SPURT FORTH..."



"THE SEAT NEXT TO ME **BURNS**."

--WE SHALL USE OUR **CAPTIVE AUDIENCE** TO HAVE SOME **REAL FUN**...



DEATH-HAND AND THE SUN OF MORDILLO

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

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ARRGHH!! So many truly fine letters and such limited space in which to present them! The process of choosing which comments should be printed has been nothing less than agonizing, and we herewith apologize for the severe editing of those letters which appear below. But let's quit wasting space and dig into them, shall we?

Dear Doug and Paul,

MASTER OF KUNG FU has always been an exceptional comic, but with the last two issues (#'s 29 & 30) you have exceeded all past triumphs. Everyone involved with the two issues did a great job. While reading "The Crystal Connection" I couldn't help but think of a James Bond film. Everything fit — from Velcro, the typical Fleming villain, to the island fortress. You can imagine my thoughts when Black Jack mentioned 007.

Gulacy created the perfect mood for this story, and Moench's script was superb — especially Shang Chi's alliance with the statue, and his bluff with the stone ear on page twenty-two.

Rick Brooks
Nevada, Iowa

Funny you should mention Bond, Mr. Brooks; Devil-May-Care Doug is even now in the process of re-reading "Live and Let Die," and plans on hitting several more Fleming masterpieces before launching back into the Sherlock Holmes canon. We heartily recommend both series to one and all. (And if you *really* want to see an explosion of Bondian enthusiasm, you oughta be around when Doug gets together with Dauntless Don McGregor for one of their frequent discussions on the finer points of vicarious life on Her Majesty's secret service. Hoo boy, can they trade 007-style reminiscences!)

Dear Doug and Paul,

Doug Moench is writing with power, might, and fine pacing — and Paul Gulacy's explosive return in #29 continues with fine style in #30. In short, a mag in which everything clicks; by all means, keep this team as long as possible.

One suggestion: Let Paul do as much of his own inking as he can. Although Dan Adkins is more than capable, #29 clearly shows that the best inker for Gulacy is Gulacy. Keep pluggin', fellas.

Ed O'Reilly
Ada, Ohio

All right, Ed, but what should we plug? How about Roy Thomas' dynamite new black & white mag — UNKNOWN WORLDS OF SCIENCE FICTION. This is just off the tops of our heads, mind you, but we can't think of a better way to spend a buck.

Dear People:

MOKF #30 was basically an exciting action story with the emphasis on fighting and escaping Velcro and company. Yet, you couldn't help but throw in the philosophical symbolism of Chi's stone-ear threat. This situation seems a perfect example of the successfully conflicting approaches

in this book. While all participants are punching each other out, Chi stands alone in the middle, attempting to conclude the events as peacefully as possible. Granted, he himself does most of the fighting, but the difference in his reasoning process is what makes the book. Sadly enough, even Tarr and Reston (although the "good guys") are out to destroy the enemy; not merely what the enemy *stands* for, but the enemy itself. Chi, however, stands against the evil inherent in this enemy, and his actions are geared toward this end. To wit: He didn't try to kill anyone, but instead utilized a grand bluff. It's an interesting contrast, and one which should be followed through.

And it seems to me that Chi's role as a Comic Balance between the forces of Order and Chaos (if you'll excuse the Moorcockian terms) could be highlighted more, so that aside from battling Smith's "bad guys," he also takes Smith himself to task once in a while — specifically when Smith's orders conflict with Chi's basic philosophies.

PMM Dean Mullaney
Staten Island, NY 10304

Doug and Paul are working on a sequence right now, Dean, in which Shang-Chi does indeed "take Smith to task." If it turns out as well as they expect, it should prove to be an extremely interesting insight into the feelings and attitudes of both characters.

And is your reference to Michael Moorcock just a coincidence — or have you somehow learned that Doug and Paul will soon essay adaptations of Mr. Moorcock's atmospherically moody ELRIC stories (as well as an *original* epic or three)?

Dear Marvel,

MASTER OF KUNG FU #30 was great. How Doug can come up with these great scripts is beyond me. To my knowledge, he must write at least ten to twenty of them a month, each dealing with new plots and different types of characters. My hat's off to you, Doug. I also totally approve of your new storyline. Fu Manchu is a good adversary, but after awhile he becomes a bit monotonous.

Paul's art was also good. Though I must admit at times during his earlier issues I had second thoughts about the art, I now enjoy it as much as the work of Marvel's other great artists. I especially liked the top panels on page 22. Again, I don't know how you do it.

Richard Matthews
Las Vegas, Nevada

We'll *tell* you how they do it, Rich. Doug sits around getting headaches from thinking so much, and Paul's lower back is now a focus of permanent pain from sitting hunched over the drawing board sixteen hours a day. See? Answers like this are easy. Painful, but easy.

We wanted to include at least 30 more letters, but couldn't edit *any* of them short enough to fit — so we'll fill this last bit of space by telling you that next issue will sport the incredible conclusion to our current MORDILLO trilogy. We think it's easily as good as our recent VELCRO triparter, and hope you'll agree.

In the meantime, while waiting for "Death-Hand and the Sun of Mordillo" to blast the newsstands, why not take a few moments to let us know your reactions to this crazy Mordillo guy? We just love to get letters, ya know.

Be good — and bye!